

New York Tribune

First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials
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of my own in performing such an errand. I go to give the best that is in me to the common settlement which I must now assist in arriving at in conference with the other working heads of the associated governments. I shall count upon your friendly countenance and encouragement. I shall not be inaccessible. The cables and wireless will render me available for any counsel or service you may desire of me, and I shall be happy in the thought that I am constantly in touch with the weighty matters of domestic policy with which we shall have to deal. I shall make my absence as brief as possible.

He will be available for any counsel or service desired of him. He does not suggest that he will be accessible to the aid and counsel of the Senate.

And so the President of the United States sets forth on an unlimited errand. What will come of it he himself does not know. The faithful think it will make him President of the United States of the World.

Hail and Home Again!

It was a good welcome that the city gave to its fighting men returned on the Mauretania, and all we can say is that it did not begin to express the affection and pride that are in our hearts. It was a cheerful show, as was right. "Home again!" brings a choke to one's throat, but the heart drums with an elation that will not down. Our men are as glad and joyous to be back as we are to have them.

In a sense this city is the national port of entry for these men, and we hope that soon measures will be taken to provide for more formal greetings. Is a parade of every returning shipload too large an order? We don't feel at all sure that it is, considering how much patriotism and gratitude the city has to express! None of our emotions had a chance for utterance when our men sailed away. They have been bottled up a good while now. Why not give them every chance for expression?

What we have in mind is a far-looking programme of welcome laid out in cooperation with the War Department. There should be signals to announce every arrival. There should be just as many parades, formal and informal, as possible. All that is needed is organization and leadership. Let Mayor Hylan and his committee lead, and the entire city will follow. Meantime, to all who came yesterday, the city's welcome and our hearts' greeting!

Smashing Bismarck's Empire

Kurt Eisner, the provisional head of the Bavarian Republic, seems to be manoeuvring to detach Bavaria from the German Empire. In so doing he reflects the popular dislike and distrust of Prussia which Bavarians made no bones about avowing, even up to the outbreak of the war. It is probably also his aim to secure better terms for Bavaria by going to Paris and asking for a separate peace.

The union between the South German states and the rest of the German Empire has not been a highly congenial one. The South Germans are a more natural, simple and amiable folk than the Prussians or the Low Germans of the Baltic and North Sea coasts. They were never militaristic until the Prussian drillmaster took them in hand, after 1871. In 1866 they sided with Austria against Prussia. Leopold, the deposed King of Bavaria, is said to carry in his body a Prussian bullet—a memento of the one of the one-sided battles in which the Prussians overwhelmed the ludicrously unprepared Bavarians.

It would not be strange if Bavaria's separatist policy met with encouragement at Paris. The Allies have to face the appearance of a new German Austrian state, anxious to federate with other German states. To permit German Austria to enter the old German Empire would more than recoup Germany for the loss of Alsace-Lorraine, Posen, part or all of West Prussia and part or all of Schleswig. Territorially and in population, Germany would be an actual gainer through the war.

Allied policy contemplates a weakening of Prussia, the real plague spot in Germany. That policy would be promoted by the detachment of the South German states from the Bismarckian empire. German Austria is strongly Roman Catholic. So is Bavaria. These two units would constitute a homogeneous state. They are contiguous and their populations are sympathetic.

German Austria will have an area of about 40,000 square miles and a population of about 8,000,000. Bavaria has an area of 30,000 miles, and in 1910 had a population of 6,778,291. A combination state would be about as large as Missouri and would have a population equal to New York's and Ohio's.

Württemberg and Baden lie between Bavaria proper and the Bavarian Palatinate on the west bank of the Rhine. They might be willing to join a South German confederation. Württemberg is Protestant. Baden has a Catholic majority, although the former reigning house was Protestant. Were these four states to combine and pursue an anti-Prussian policy Prussia's influence in Central Europe would sink to what it used to be before the days of Frederick the Great. For Hanover, Oldenburg, the free cities and perhaps even the Rhine province would naturally seek to break away from a weak and discredited Prussia.

Eisner is trying to undo Bismarck's work. His justification is that a Ger-

man empire under Prussian hegemony has been a ghastly failure. It has not brought the South German peoples either security or free development. Prussian megalomania has landed all the German states, north or south, on the brink of ruin. Why, then, retain a political relation which has been a curse and a liability?

Bavaria is not as hated in the world today as Prussia is. By repudiating Prussianism she may win back in part the respect of neutrals and enemies. That is the Eisner logic. It is also a logic which fits in with Allied interests. Prussia has been a bandit nation for centuries. Anything that limits her power for evil in the future is a contribution to the peace of the world.

A True American Career

The career of Major Straight will be for long an inspiration to the typical American boy who fights to win. His was a rare and conspicuous combination of ability, personality and character. He was fitted naturally for high leadership in his nation.

Does chance help make such men? It is an old query that can never be answered. But it is easy to see how the material out of which Major Straight made his career might for another man have been sheer waste. He was in Japan and China with his parents for a number of years as a boy. It was through his learning the East and its tongues then that he gained the interest and the foundation upon which his whole future was built. The American eagerness to live, our national will to learn and to achieve, were of his fibre. For such, failure is unthinkable.

Of his idealism and high purpose of mind and spirit his final sacrifice is a fit monument. In mourning his death we can be deeply thankful for his example of devoted patriotism and proud, indeed, that of such youth is America.

The New Gasoline

A high degree of skepticism greets the rather sensational announcement from Washington of a new motor fuel. There seems a fair regularity in announcements of this sort. The motor-owning public well recalls the optimistic predictions made a year or two ago on the basis of the new "cracking process," which was to make great reductions in the price. The results to date are not visible. The present discovery is vouched for by army officials, and, according to the statements given out, the new fuel can be produced in quantity at one-half the cost of gasoline, is to give more mileage a gallon, greater speed, less heating (therefore less use of oil), less wear and tear on the cylinders. It is "almost scentless and tasteless, and gives no odor from the exhausts." It will also start with the temperature below zero.

All this is very cheering if true. But, like the "revolutionary" discovery of a new wireless receiver, announced last week, the invention is still to remain a secret for some time to come. The public will not forget that it was from Washington, and from a government bureau, that the announcement came several years ago that wireless would grow on trees, as it were. That great discovery made its author famous and a general in the army. But tree-fed wireless failed to grow.

The silence which greeted our 1,200 wounded who arrived on the troopship Northern Pacific yesterday is a shame to the city that must not occur again. We do not know who was to blame. General March has said that our men are not to be sneaked back. Was the news to be had for the asking? If so, where was the Mayor's committee? If not, let us make it clear to the War Department that New York City holds it a high honor to receive our fighting men; that all are welcome, gloriously welcome, none more so than those who bear wounds, and that we wish a chance to say what we feel to all. There must be a system arranged by which every troopship will have its greeting. The people are ready and anxious to join in. Only let them be told. The episode of yesterday must be the last of its kind.

The Subway San brings the message to women employed by the Interborough that there will still be work for them when the men come back from war. A similar message has gone from the Railroad Administration offices in Washington to the 100,000 women added to the payrolls of the American railroads since the United States entered the war.

Further evidence that the war is over comes from Washington in the announcement that the building of post-offices is to be resumed. The Treasury Department has just advertised for bids for Federal buildings in thirty-seven communities.

There is nothing "chinalafed" about the record of China in the United War Work campaign. Dr. John R. Mott, who directed the international drive for funds for the comfort of Allied fighting men, announces that the upward of a million dollars contributed by the Chinese is twelve times the quota assigned them.

A Judicial Borrower

The judge has just finished necessary work in his house that a good deal of papering might be done. He borrowed Dick Brexler's saw and Smith's hammer, picked up a few nails and did a first class job. Both saw and hammer have been returned. If the judge would only return our umbrella, borrowed during the last rain, we could not say too much in his praise.

SHOES & SHIPS & SEALING WAX

GOODBY TO THE PLANES

I'm leaving the factory, gents, au revoir. To tackle the job which I handled before The Kaiser ran wild and all of us who Could not get to France with the rest of the crew Found work that was then most essential to do.

You gave me a place right away in your gang, And taught me to soak with a talented whang The parts of an airplane together, though I Was surely one heluva green, clumsy guy.

And loafing at noontimes, I soon understood The stuff you were made of, and men, it was good! You taught me a lesson I'll never forget The pleasures of honest production, and sweat.

I love ev'ry brick, ev'ry inch of the plant, I'd like to stick with you, old scouts, but I can't. It's this way; the wife and the kiddo can spend More dough than I earn or you're willing to lend.

But if, unexpected, at some future day, The stream of prosperity trickles my way.

I'm coming back here on the run, to apply For work building trolley cars bound for the sky.

LESLIE ALAN TAYLOR.

Let those who do not believe in Providence hide their heads. Look what and who is now being visited upon Holland because she did not join in the great war for freedom.

BACK HOME STUFF!

Undertaker Enoch Boggs.

Undertaker Enoch Boggs was a very silent man. He had a very neck and chewed fine cut. At funerals he used to sit up on the hearse seat with black Charlie Robison, the driver, and nod all the way to Cemetery Hill.

Mrs. Boggs was a great hand to call on the sick. She was a Lewis and came from Purdy. They had one son, Archie Boggs, who was the town dude. He came back from Marietta College the first year with a spotted bull dog.

He had his hair parted in the middle and wore a tiny little cap with a long visor far back on his head and had per-top trousers. Dunk Devae told around town that when Archie passed the hitching rack in front of Wye's harness shop two horses broke away.

Undertaker Boggs had the finest horses in town. He had seven beautiful white mares and every year he got the first prize at the equine exhibit at the county fair. He also belonged to all the lodges and was a great man to march in parades.

He was a delegate to the Pythian convention at Denver, and made the round trip with Mrs. Boggs. He also went to Chicago during the World's Fair. He had an uncle who had been to Europe.

Every time Undertaker Boggs went away to lodge conventions there used to be stories circulated around town. Folks said he went on spree and that Mrs. Boggs went along to take care of him. Miss Tish Young was in Cincinnati once and said she saw Undertaker Boggs staggering along the street. Nobody ever saw him take a drink back home, and he signed the pledge under Evangelist Sam Jones back in '82.

O. O. M.

We'd Feel Triumphant

F. F. V.—Ere you drop this into the ever-jawning basket, stop to consider if you could be assailed by a guiltier feeling than that which you feel when after you have lifted all the changes off the tray in a restaurant, you pass your waiter and hear his cordial "Thank you."

BENNEFF.

Wilhelm admits that before the war began he furnished himself with a still by taking a trip to Norway.

F. F. V.

The Wildcats

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I note that several times you have referred to the 30th Division as the Wildcat Division, although this is well known to be a mistake. The 81st Division is the Wildcat Division, so called from a road running through Camp Jackson, where the 81st Division was trained.

There was a long and interesting account in your paper of their arrival in England last August. It seems a pity not to make this correction before the return of the 30th Division, as, no matter what their name may be, we are gloriously proud of them and will prove this when they return.

New York, Nov. 28, 1918.

L. O. R.

[The 30th Division has adopted the nickname of the Old Hickory Division.—Ed.]

It Does Seem Strange

(From The Beacon Reformer)

It is a wonder that somebody hasn't yet suggested that we discard the Fahrenheit thermometer because it is the invention of a German. In this connection "The Buffalo Courier" points out some strange anomalies. In all English speaking countries the Fahrenheit thermometer (German) is in universal use; in Germany they use the Reaumur (the French instrument); in France they use the Celsius (Swedish); and in Russia they use the Leslie (English).

Treating 'Em Rough

(From The Columbus, S. C., State)

Tank riding is now the fashionable London sport. Oh, these women! You shield and shelter them and prevent the air from blowing too harshly on their cheeks, only to find that what really pleases them is to "treat 'em rough."

The End of the Draft

Why the Local Boards Can Best Handle the Return of Soldiers to Civilian Life

By Henry W. Taft

A BRITISH publicist has recently said that the two miracles of the war were the raising of an army of over 3,000,000 men in America and the successful transportation across the ocean of more than two-thirds of that force.

The greater part of our army was raised by compulsory draft, under which over 3,000,000 of young men were taken from civil life and moulded into a military force, and this was done without a suggestion of disorder and almost without a trace of discontent. In a republic, where enforced military service is always a delicate subject to deal with, the achievement of the United States was remarkable, and could only have been successful by the exercise of a high degree of statesmanlike prevision. The result obtained should not now be marred by a failure to enact legislation under which our soldiers may be promptly and satisfactorily returned to civil life, whence they came.

Neighborhood Action

The fundamental idea on which the selective service system was based was that it should be administered in small localities by local boards composed of civilians who were neighbors of the registrants. It was carefully arranged that their proceedings should not have a militaristic aspect, and a too drastic administration of the law was guarded against by providing for appeals to the district board and to the President. Registrants were made to feel that it was their neighbors who were to determine whether they ought to be put into the service of their country, and that they were to be guided by principles of justice, and equality. While the army was created by means of the Federal power, the exercise of that power was not accompanied by offensive evidences of centralized militarism.

In considering the subject, the following facts should be borne in mind:

(1) Local boards, through long experience under the successive drafts, have generally come to be very efficient. The power which they have exercised has given to them a sense of responsibility and a pride in the performance of their duties, and they are now generally regarded with respect. They have taken a pride in the registrants of their districts and frequently have gathered them together for mutual expressions of good will, even organizing escorts for registrants starting for the training camps. The mutual feelings of friendship and confidence thus engendered have naturally not ended with the departure of the men to the front, and upon their return will revive with increased fervor and pride.

Reversing the Process

(2) It seems to be assumed that the enlisted men should receive their discharge as near as possible to the place of their induction. To carry out this idea, a rearrangement of the army will become necessary so as to make military units with reference to the residence of the men composing them. There would not seem to be

any difficulty in making the local exemption districts the basis for the formation of such units; and if this were done it would become an easy matter for the military authorities to reverse the process by which they received the enlisted men from the local boards and to return them to those boards for ultimate discharge. As the local boards had to deal with the sometime disagreeable duty of inducing men into the army, it would be quite appropriate that they should be concerned with the more gracious task of returning them to civil life.

Industrial Problems

(3) The local boards, having become efficient in dealing with the men inducted from their neighborhoods, could more easily and effectively than any other agency, deal with these same men upon their discharge. They not only frequently have personal acquaintance with the men, but the questionnaires are kept on file for ready reference and show facts in relation to the registrants which it ought not to be necessary for some other board to reexamine. Furthermore, the local boards better than any one else know the industrial needs of their respective localities, and they can readily determine many questions arising in relation thereto before the process of discharge from the army becomes complete. In this connection it would also be quite possible to associate with each local board a representative of the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor, who would be equipped with a comprehensive industrial survey of the country and could be useful in assisting discharged men in obtaining employment.

Machinery Available

(4) There are other advantages in the above suggestions which would tend to obviate some difficulties which have attended the enforcement of some of our war measures. I refer particularly to the war risk insurance law. The working of this law, particularly in relation to allotments, has been far from satisfactory and has caused much complaint. It would have been better if Congress had provided at the local boards for some official charged with the duty of requiring each registrant, upon being inducted into the army, to make the allotment of his pay provided for under the law, and of assisting him in taking out insurance. As a matter of fact, this was all attended to in the camps and in many cases the results were far from satisfactory. It is not necessary here to go into the causes for this dissatisfaction, but it is enough to say that by the addition of very little machinery at the local boards they could deal with all matters of insurance and allotments promptly and efficiently. Physical examinations will also be necessary, and the existing medical boards in the local board district could be readily made available for that purpose. Finally the legal advisory boards could also be resorted to for gratuitous legal advice which many of the discharged men will undoubtedly require.

Restored to Duty

(G. C. M. O. 183.)

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL

ORDERS, NO. 183.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, August 24, 1918.

BEFORE a general court-martial which convened at Camp Cody, N. Mex. June 17, 1918, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 143, Headquarters 34th Division, Camp Cody, N. Mex., May 23, 1918, of which Lieut. Col. Albert H. Hollingworth, 134th Infantry, was president; Capt. James R. Murphy, 133rd Infantry, judge advocate, and Lieut. Ben D. Wood, Signal Corps, National Army, assistant judge advocate, was arraigned and tried—

Private Percy R. Starks, 3rd Training Company, Casual Detachment.

Charge I.—"Violation of the 64th Article of War."

Specification 1.—"In that Percy R. Starks, private, 3rd Training Company, Casual Detachment, having received a lawful command from Edgar F. Frick, first lieutenant, 135th Infantry, his superior officer, to go out to drill, did, at Camp Cody, New Mexico, on or about the 4th day of June, 1918, wilfully disobey the same."

Specification 2.—"In that Percy R. Starks, private, 3rd Training Company, Casual Detachment, having received a lawful command from Edgar F. Frick, first lieutenant, 135th Infantry, his superior officer, to go out to drill, did at Camp Cody, New Mexico, on or about the 5th day of June, 1918, wilfully disobey the same."

Charge II.—"Violation of the 95th Article of War."

Specification.—"In that Percy R. Starks, private, 3rd Training Company, Casual Detachment, did, at Camp Cody, New Mexico, on or about the 3rd day of June, 1918, have in his possession certain seditious books and literature designed for distribution to the prejudice of good order and military discipline."

To which the accused pleaded: